

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces and supersedes all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A friction singler for singling sheet-shaped value documents (5), comprising:
 - a sheet magazine (16) for receiving a stack of sheets (5),
 - a picking device with a singler element (1), the singler element having, for contacting and conveying the sheets (5a) to be singled from the sheet magazine (16), one or more friction elements (3) with at least one groove (2) extending in the transport direction of the sheets (5a) to be singled, and
 - a retaining device (14) which forms with the singler element (1) a singler gap (19) through which sheets (5a) to be singled are conveyed from the sheet magazine (16), and which has friction areas (14a) of high coefficient of friction and sliding areas (14b) of low coefficient of friction cooperating with the a groove (2) of the singler element (1),characterized in that the each groove (2) of the singler element (1) cooperates both with a friction area (14a) and with a sliding area (14b) of the retaining device (14).
2. (Currently Amended) A friction singler according to claim 1, characterized in that the singler element (1) has ~~a plurality of~~ at least two grooves (2), extending in the transport direction of the sheets (5a) to be singled, ~~and at least two, grooves (2) of the singler element (1) that~~ each cooperate both with a friction area (14a) and with a sliding area (14b) of the ~~friction~~ retaining device (14).
3. (Original) A friction singler according to claim 2, characterized in that the order of friction and sliding areas (14a, 14b) cooperating with the grooves (2), viewed transversely to the transport direction, is different for different grooves (2).

4. (Original) A friction singler according to claim 3, characterized in that the order is opposite for adjacent grooves (2).
5. (Previously Presented) A friction singler according to claim 1, characterized in that the retaining device (14) comprises one or more retaining wheels having the friction areas (14a) and sliding areas (14b).
6. (Previously Presented) A friction singler according to claim 1, characterized in that the singler element (1) is a singler roller.
7. (Previously Presented) The friction singler of claim 1, wherein said documents are bank notes.
8. (Previously Presented) The friction singler of claim 2, wherein said at least two grooves include all grooves.
9. (Previously Presented) A friction singler according to claim 2, characterized in that the retaining device (14) comprises one or more retaining wheels having the friction areas (14a) and sliding areas (14b).
10. (Previously Presented) A friction singler according to claim 3, characterized in that the retaining device (14) comprises one or more retaining wheels having the friction areas (14a) and sliding areas (14b).
11. (Previously Presented) A friction singler according to claim 4, characterized in that the

retaining device (14) comprises one or more retaining wheels having the friction areas (14a) and sliding areas (14b).

12. (Previously Presented) A friction singler according to claim 7, characterized in that the retaining device (14) comprises one or more retaining wheels having the friction areas (14a) and sliding areas (14b).
13. (Previously Presented) A friction singler according to claim 8, characterized in that the retaining device (14) comprises one or more retaining wheels having the friction areas (14a) and sliding areas (14b).
14. (Previously Presented) A friction singler according to claim 2, characterized in that the singler element (1) is a singler roller.
15. (Previously Presented) A friction singler according to claim 3, characterized in that the singler element (1) is a singler roller.
16. (Previously Presented) A friction singler according to claim 4, characterized in that the singler element (1) is a singler roller.
17. (Previously Presented) A friction singler according to claim 5, characterized in that the singler element (1) is a singler roller.
18. (Previously Presented) A friction singler according to claim 7, characterized in that the singler element (1) is a singler roller.

19. (Previously Presented) A friction singler according to claim 8, characterized in that the singler element (1) is a singler roller.